

Site Investigation News



February 2002

IDEM's site investigation reveals contamination at former Uniroyal site in St. Joseph County

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) conducted a site investigation and found extensive contamination at the former Uniroyal Plastics Corporation facility in Mishawaka, St. Joseph County. Uniroyal had been a major employer in the city during its 130-year history. Products manufactured at the facility included woolen and rubber goods, windmills, airline fuel cells and foam rubber and adhesive products.

IDEM was requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the City of Mishawaka to conduct a site investigation at the approximately 40-acre abandoned property, which included buildings, structures and waterways.

IDEM's Site Investigation staff sampled and found elevated levels of contamination, that included phthalate oil and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in the groundwater and soil, various oils and PCB in the surface water of the canal dissecting the property, and friable asbestos throughout the facility. The state funded the site investigation.

As a result of the Site Investigation staff's findings during the pre-remedial investigation, IDEM asked the U.S. EPA Removal Program to conduct an emergency removal of hazardous materials at the property.

IDEM, the City of Mishawaka, U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice signed a Prospective Purchase Agreement, which included IDEM's oversight of the asbestos removal activities. IDEM provided input during environmental activities at the site, as needed.

The site has been remediated, and the buildings and structures demolished. Currently, the City of Mishawaka plans to redevelop the property.



Site Snapshot

IDEM actions:

Investigated and sampled the groundwater, surface water and soil, and assisted with oversight of removal actions.

Location:

Uniroyal Plastics Corporation facility in Mishawaka, St. Joseph County

Substances of concern:

Asbestos, phthalate oil and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)

Environmental threats:

Potential threats to groundwater and surface water in the St. Joseph River from hazardous materials.

For further information about IDEM's site investigation action at this site, contact staff at the following phone numbers or at IDEM's toll free phone number at (800) 451-6027.

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